

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723
Phone: 907 852-2611 or 0200
Fax: 907 852-0337



Harry K. Brower, Jr. Mayor

Racheal Jones
Planning & Environmental Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99513

Email: rajones@blm.gov

Re: Request for 45-Day Extension of Public Comment Period for Willow Master Development Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Jones:

On August 23, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) considering the potential effects of ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.'s proposed Willow Master Development Plan. Comments are now due on October 15. Public hearings are scheduled in mid-September, including four in our communities of Anaktuvuk Pass on September 10, Utqiagvik on September 18, Atkasuk on September 19, and Nuiqsut on September 24.

The North Slope Borough commends the BLM for its leadership in coordinating the efforts of multiple agencies cooperating in the preparation of the DEIS, and greatly appreciates its sensitivity to the needs of our communities throughout the process. That being said, we have stressed since the beginning of the preparation effort that all agencies and the applicant must accommodate our communities' needs throughout the process. We urged particularly that certain phases of that process, including scoping and review of the Draft EIS, be scheduled to the maximum extent possible to avoid conflicts with critical subsistence activities and other matters that will require the focus and attention of Borough staff, local officials, subsistence hunters, and other residents.

I know that the BLM recognizes that our communities are facing the extraordinary and challenging convergence of key decision points in multiple concurrent EIS preparation efforts beyond Willow, as the BLM is also the lead agency for Coastal Plain and NPR-A. We also recognize the BLM understands the

central importance of whaling and other subsistence activities to the cultural and nutritional well-being of our residents. Nuiqsut whalers have already traveled to their base at Cross Island, and Utqiagvik whaling will likely begin within a month. In short, our ability to engage effectively as all of these planning efforts move forward, to respond when given the opportunity to do so, and to effectively consult and coordinate our responses with our affected communities while those communities have been occupied with essential subsistence activities has been, and will continue to be, significantly compromised.

Accordingly, we believe that more time will be needed for review of the Willow DEIS, and ask that an extension of 45 days be added to the current comment period. In addition to providing more needed time for review of the DEIS, this extension would push the comment deadline sufficiently beyond the whaling season when many of our residents are expected to be unavailable.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

 (H. K. Brower, Jr.)
9/3/19

Harry K. Brower, Jr.

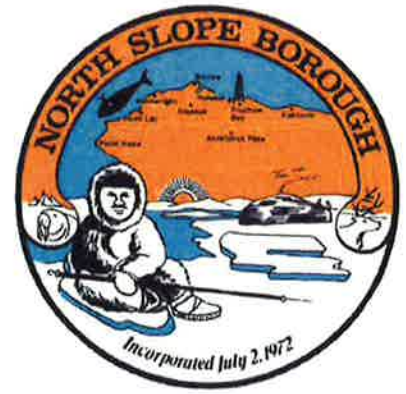
Mayor

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Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Departments

FROM: Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor *HB*

DATE: September 2, 2019

RE: **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY_61-19**

Felipe Farley, Borough Attorney is hereby delegated as Acting Mayor beginning Monday, September 2, 2019 through Saturday, September 7, 2019 or until my return.

Please extend your cooperation to Felipe Farley during my absence.

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